

The Enterprise

KENT'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

THE ENTERPRISE PUBLISHING COMPANY
Publishers
L. BATES RUSSELL
Founder and Editor

Entered as second-class matter at the Post-office, Chestertown, Md., in accordance with Act of Congress.

Published every Wednesday at The Enterprise Building, Cross and Cannon Streets, Chestertown, Maryland.

Subscription Rate: One Dollar a Year In Advance

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1935

Too Many Santa Clauses?

It has been suggested that perhaps we have too many Santa Clauses here, there, and everywhere—in toy stores, on the streets acting in different capacities, on the air over radio, at parties and so on—leading to the assumption that perhaps the legend about the Old Man of the Northland may not be believed so readily by curious youngsters.

It does seem possible that seeing and hearing Santa Claus so many different times in so many different places and in different make-ups might shatter the beautiful mind picture children have of good-natured Kris Krinkle, but on careful thought we are reminded that they love him for what he does on the night of December 24 and not the various inconsistencies which may appear now and then concerning him. So long as he continues to perform liberally on this important night, there is no danger of the myth of the actual being lost favor with the children.

A little boy living here saw Santa Claus at a store, shook hands with him and talked with him.

"Why, he looks just like I thought he would," his voice is so pleasant," remarked the young boy.

Thus does childish imagination work. In any day, Santa may be at as many different places as the youngster can visit, and he dressed differently so far as make-up is concerned, and talk differently yet the implicit faith that the little ones have in him is not shaken by such apparent incongruity.

So it is not strange that Santa should be everywhere and anywhere at Christmas time. Sant like the Christmas spirit—he is everywhere because the childish mind knows he is—and that is enough.

Confidence Builds

Confidence builds and improves a community; lack of it destroys communities. Distrust is a destructive element that eats into the very vital community life, whereas trust in one another is the only foundation on which town and cities can be built for the future.

Confidence is but one element of co-operation. Of course, no co-operation would be possible without the utmost confidence in one another. The people of this community could not be expected to patronize local merchants if they did not trust them, if they did not believe that they were getting value received.

"Trust men and they will be true to you; trust them greatly and they will show themselves greatly to you."

Thus wrote Emerson, the great essayist, many years ago, and life hasn't changed much since then. No community can build for a greater and laudable future if distrust is the ruling element in the community. We must have faith in one another, a confidence that is substantial enough to stand a hard jolt now and then and still be strong.

If you find evidence of something that shatters your confidence, don't conclude that this is the dominating spirit of the community. Just about you and you will be able to find ample reason for your confidence to be strengthened and re-energized.

Good Will On The Road

The Holiday season is a peculiarly fitting time to emphasize the obligations of every motorist. More than passive interest that the Yuletide is that quarter of the year when automobile accidents, deaths and injuries are at an annual peak according to the National Bureau of Casualty Surety Underwriters. How horrible is the thought that as we approach the days when the sentiment "Good Will to All" is glorified throughout the land, the carnage of wrecks and broken bodies is still more than ever over the face of our country.

A great deal has been said about the necessity of courtesy in driving as an accident prevention measure. Driving at speeds reasonable for conditions, sharing the road, passing properly, using correct hand signals, avoiding all those actions which make driving dangerous and uncomfortable for other fellow, are the dictates of courtesy and common sense. So, too, are they dictates of the principle of good neighbor. Good driving, with a real desire to safeguard the lives of those exposed to consequences of that driving, is practical Christianity. It is a kind of practical Christianity that lowers of all creeds can subscribe to as they join the common rejoicing at this Christmas season.

The first concern of the churches of America is the saving of souls. By entering with whole-hearted activity into the automobile safety movement they can extend their activity to the saving of lives without violating their first purpose. The blot on a soul as a result of killing or maiming another through careless or heedless action, is one not easily erased. The churches have the advantage of being able to appeal to a great section of the drivers of the country on occasions when they are more receptive to the idea of good will as a driving maxim. The good neighbor on the road could well serve as a theme for a sermon in every church this time of the year.

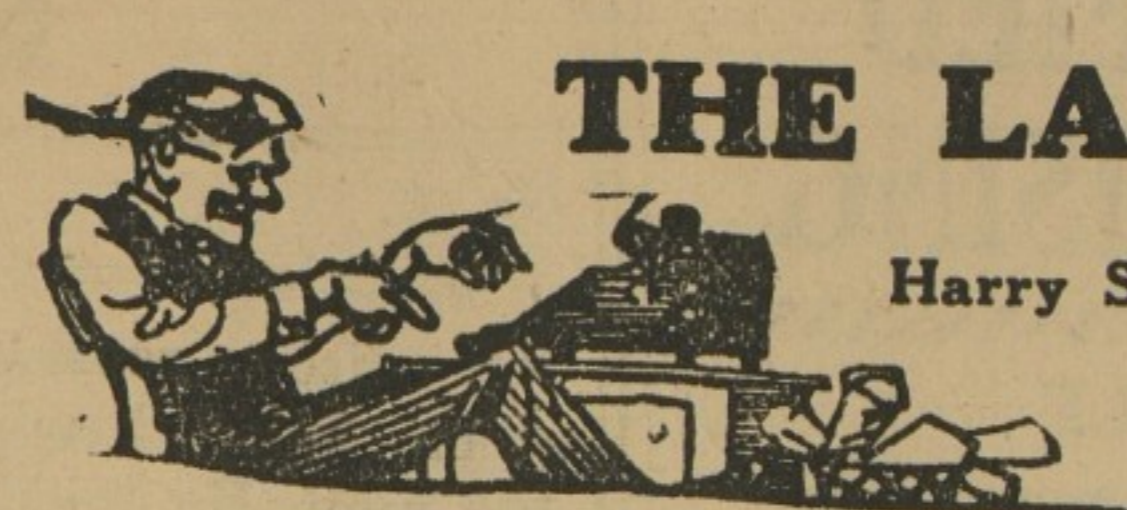
So long as selfishness and stupid recklessness, so long as death and destruction exist on our streets and highways, the ideal of peace on earth, good will toward men, will command little more than lip service.

The old skinflint who drops a nickel in the collection box and expects a dollar's worth of blessing is doomed to disappointment.

Home is that building which is located on the front part of the lot on which the garage is situated.

One of the fine things about the old fashioned silent pictures was that you didn't have to hear the revengeful laugh of the villain.

THE LANCER



Harry S. Russell

NEWS REEL - Pre-Christmas Release — by A. B. Chapin

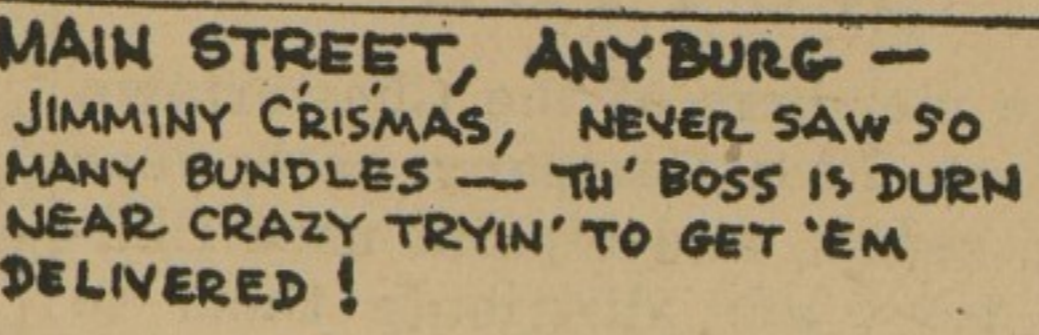


HOMEVILLE, U.S.A. —

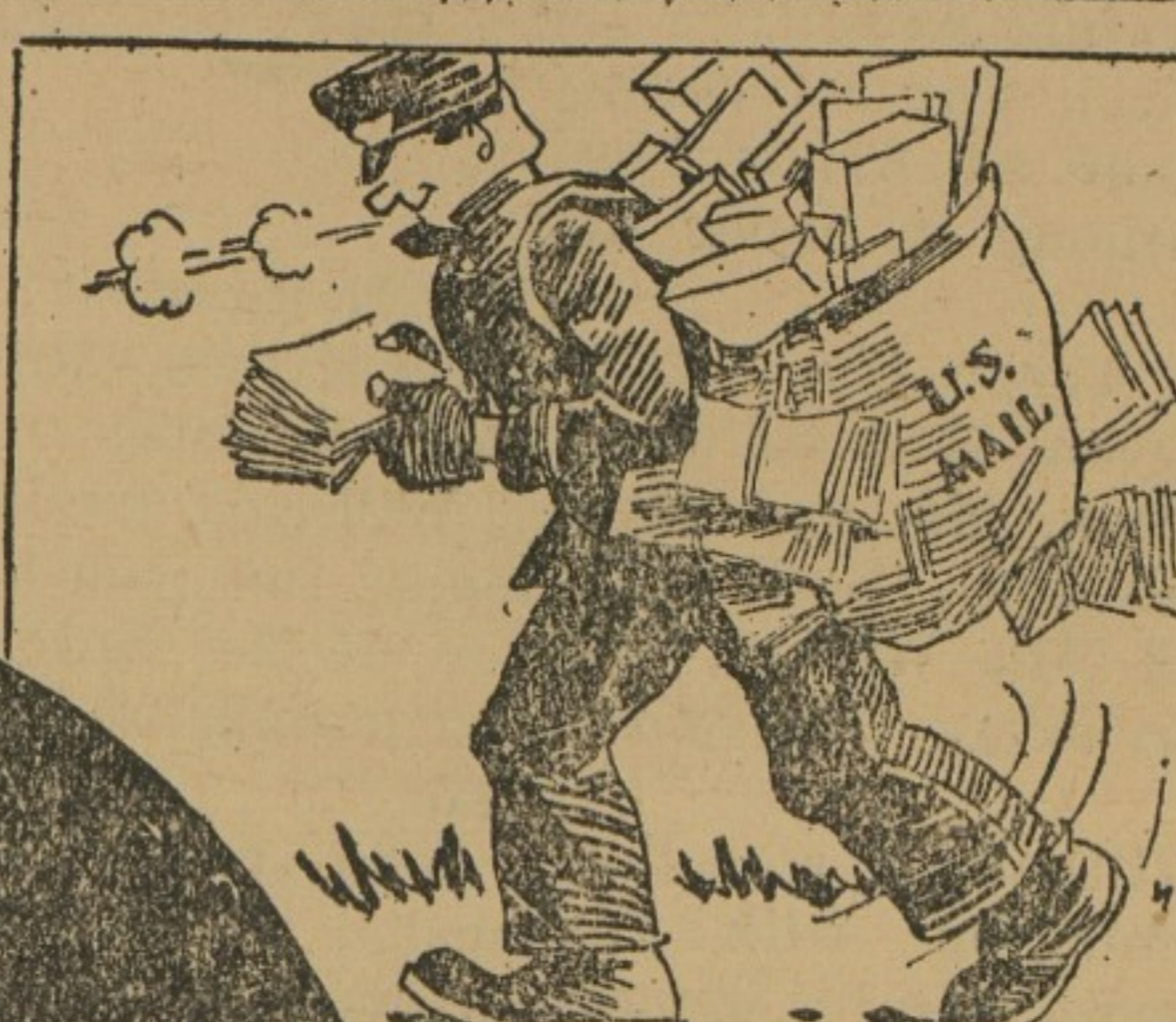
GOODNESS ME, HAVEN'T SEEN THE STORES SO CROWDED FOR YEARS — SHOULD HAVE BEGUN SHOPPING A MONTH AGO.



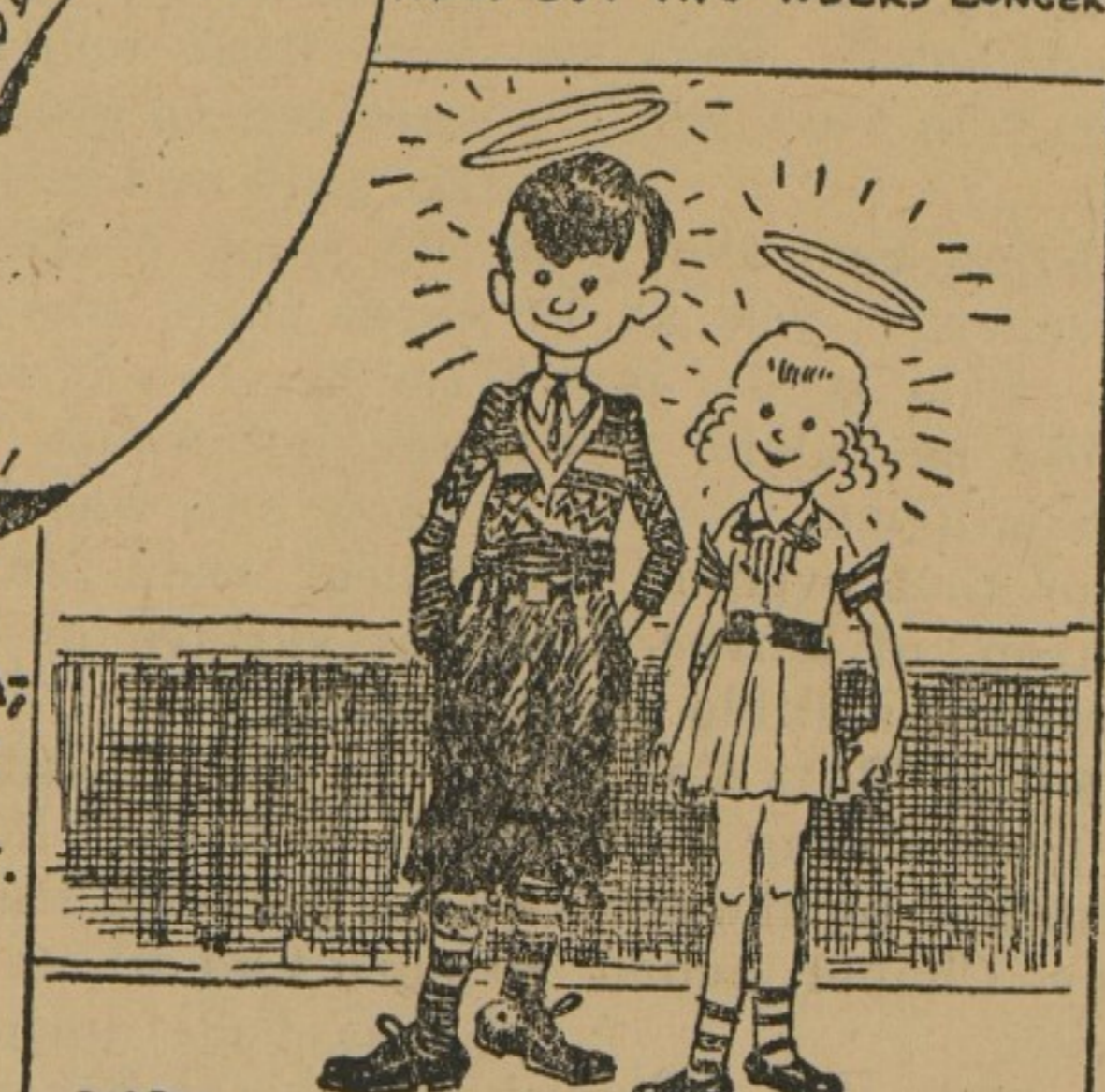
NORTH POLE, TERRA FIRMA: HELLO FOLKS, HAVEN'T TIME TO TALK — AM BUSIER THAN I'VE BEEN FOR A LONG TIME. I'LL BE SEEING YOU SOON.



MAIN STREET, ANYBURG — JIMMINY CRISMAS, NEVER SAW SO MANY BUNDLES — TH' BOSS IS TURNIN' NEAR CRAZY TRYIN' TO GET 'EM DELIVERED!



EVERYBURG, U.S.A. — PHOOEY, THIS IS THE TOUGHEST YEAR SINCE B.D. (BEFORE THE DEPRESSION) HOPE MY POOR OLD DOGS HOLD OUT TWO WEEKS LONGER.



YOURHOLME, U.S.A. — HA, HA — POP AN' MOM CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE THEIR KIDS — OUR M'ND, HANDS WASHED, SHOES CLEANED, 'NEVER'ING, WE'RE GOOD TILL IT HURTS! —!

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN



This column always has to go to press on Monday of each week and I am sorry for that this time.

There is to be a meeting of the Board of Directors tonight (Monday) of the Kent County Chamber of Commerce to decide what to do with office furniture, etc., now that the office in which it was housed is to move to Easton. So, if you will please look among the news items, you will probably see what decision was reached. I do know that it is not possible at the present time to set up an office for the organization on its own but I do also know that there is too much life in that body to die. But what I hate to see happen is the probable shutting off for the present of the telephone number that I have always called the Service Number of the County, 115. Wherever the office moved—and it has moved several times within the last two and a half years, that phone number moved with it. The Chamber started its office on January 3, 1927, with that phone and has kept it right through until now. But there will be somewhere that you may call and the correspondence will also be kept up so don't get the idea that the Kent County Chamber of Commerce is a dead organization.

Clearing out desk drawers in preparation for moving turns up treasures, as always—it is something like a spring or fall housecleaning—not so pleasant but profitable.

Last Monday business took some of our force to Salisbury. I was among those present and have to stop a minute to sing the praises of that busy town. They had just completed their Christmas decorations and there were certainly no lightwads in the crowd that planned the program of making that town look like Christmas. The streets are crossed with garlands of greens and brilliantly lighted. It looks as though they either never heard of the depression down there or they have so far come out of it that they are staging a jubilee. And were their store windows skanky with formal gowns for evening, gorgeous velvet wraps and evening tags for men—it looks as though they expect their people to go places and do things within the next month or so!

And if my editor won't blue pencil this paragraph as smacking of advertising I should like to give a word of greeting and praise to the new little tea room that has opened in the heart of Chestertown and is filling a need. "The Three Windows" is getting to be a great gathering place for the business women and men of the community; and those who have longed for a place where they could get something hot in the middle of long afternoon office hours, during the winter months, now have it. I am an ardent admirer of people who have insight enough to see a need and then aim to meet it. A new business is an asset to any town.

Wonder how long the craze for scotties is going to last? For several years now, Christmas cards have looked more like the celebration of the founding of a dog kennel than anything else. Scotties are cute and lovable, I grant, but although they make fine designs for children's banks and a thousand and one other things I fail to see why they should be run into the ground as decorations for Christmas cards.

Back again to the subject of moving the office to Easton—which is what fills my mind most of the time just now. There is talk of our moving before the 20th of this month. I plan to go back and forth a good bit and to stay over night in Easton when the weather is bad or extra work keeps us on the job after hours, as it has been doing lately. But I want to extend an invitation to my friends and to their friends to drive to Centerville or Easton with me. The only hitch to that might be that I will never know whether I am returning the same night especially during the winter months and while we are so rushed. However the invitation stands. I shall leave Chestertown about ten minutes of eight in the morning when I do go and I can offer the hospitality of a seat in the car on those occasions.

A woman's face may be like an open book, but it wouldn't be safe to tell her you can read between the lines.

Popular men always guess a woman's age and then divide it by two when they tell her.

One of the hardest jobs for a rich man is to keep his health.

A hick town is one in which the people know that a report was a bluff and not a pistol shot.

Slogans are good things to have lying around if they are put to practice.

Look in the eyes of a man who says that he is a Christian. Probably his wife is the one who is.

Many a man hasn't seen his own shadow.

20 Years Ago In The Enterprise

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1915

R. Groom Parks, Esq., has entered the fight for the position as Police Justice in Chestertown, opposing R. Hynson Rogers, Esq. Both of the candidates are members of the Kent bar.

Clerk of the Circuit Court for nearly a score of years Mr. James T. Dixon retired from that post last Wednesday, as he was succeeded by Mr. A. Parks Rasin, leaving a reputation and record that have few parallels anywhere.

The banquet given by the Alumni of Washington College to the football team was held last week with an attendance of over 100. Senator W. W. Beck was toastmaster. Short speeches were made by the following: Dr. E. J. Clarke, Harry Willis, W. F. Russell, S. Scott Beck, H. W. Vickers, T. B. McLeod, Capt. Larrimore and Capt.-elect Framp-ton.

Charles W. Kibler, Jr., has been named chief deputy to Clerk Rasin with Tom Dixon retained for a year as instructor.

Editorial Comment On Current Events And Public Affairs

THE WORK RELIEF FLOP

Boiled down, we find the stupendous work-relief enterprise a dismal failure, with the situation it was intended to relieve actually made worse. It has failed utterly to stimulate private industry and thus create regular employment. It has failed to put men to work directly on public projects, useful or otherwise, as it was intended to do. It has disrupted relief organizations and discouraged private relief efforts. It has fostered dependence. It has wasted money and run up a staggering public debt. And now, it is handing an aggravated case back to the people, and putting them face to face with the prospect of further burdensome taxes in addition to those necessary to discharge the debt already incurred.

The whole business of relief as conceived and handled by the government, constitutes one of the most disastrous and costly features of a chaotic and almost unbelievably extravagant period of public administration.—Wheeling, W. Va., *Intelligencer*.

WHY CONSUMERS OBJECT

Nature plays elfish tricks with AAA. The New Deal tries to put up potato prices, and nature joins in to overdo it. Since the cold wave, growers' prices have risen 100 per cent or more in Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

It worked that way, too, with wheat, meats and other farm products touched by AAA. Along came the drought, and prices shot skyward.

The consumers' attitude is one thing, when nature decrees a shortage and high prices. He accepts them without protest, and is even glad that the farmer gets a break. But when bureaucrats mess in with their man-decreed scarcity, the consuming public protests.

Secretary Wallace and his AAA cohorts are on a "hot spot." They are as unpopular with consumers as government price-fixing meddlers always have been through the long past. If they had read history with an understanding mind, they would have known not to tamper with the food on the people's tables.—*Spokane Spokesman-Review*.

YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH THEM

The Southern father was introducing his family of boys to a visiting governor.

"Seventeen boys!" exclaimed the governor. "And 11 Democrats, I suppose?"

"All but one," said the father proudly. "They're 10 good Democrats but John, the little rascal. He'll go to readin'!"—*Highmore, S. D., Nonpareil*.

Possibly the people of this country do not know exactly what they want, but it is very evident they do not want what they have got.—*Sullivan, Ind., Lion*.

"Congressman Demands Balanced Budget."—headline. A little late aren't you, buddy?—*South Bend, Ind., Tribune*.

Today and Tomorrow

By Frank P. Stockbridge

HUMANITY

The more thoughtful members of the human family have always been curious to know how, when and where the manners, customs and habits familiar to everybody, began. It is not merely curiosity that prompts scientific investigators to go back to the beginning of things. Every bit of evidence that things which we are inclined to regard as modern are really very old helps to a better understanding of what we call, for lack of a better name, "human nature."

The more I dig into the history of the human race the more firmly I am convinced that human nature, in its main essentials, has not changed since the beginning of time.

BEGINNINGS

My indefatigable friend Joseph N. Kane, spends his time in digging down to the beginnings of things. Some years ago he published a thick book called "Famous First Facts" in which he told who was the first person to do or invent or discover many of the things that we regard as what have always been done. Now he has a new book called "More First Facts."

I have gone through it carefully to see if Joe has found out the name of the first man who ever ate an oyster. I think it was Dean Swift who said that that man, whoever he was, was a real hero. But Joe Kane hasn't got his name in his book.

LIFE

There are still millions of questions about the beginnings of things to which science has not found the answer, but every year we come nearer to the truth. The origin of life itself is a mystery which has not been solved.

A great Swedish scientist, Svend Arrhenius, put forward a theory that life first came to earth in the form of spores carried through space from some distant point in the universe. Scientists admit that may be true. The American Professor Compton's discovery of "cosmic rays" which bombard the earth from somewhere in interstellar space, suggests that such a thing is possible.

When the biggest balloon ever made went up fourteen miles into the stratosphere, a few days ago, the observers carried not only instruments for detecting and measuring the cosmic rays, but apparatus designed to collect spores, if there were any, in this realm beyond the earth's atmosphere.

DEITIES

From the earliest days, peoples of all races have been puzzled over the beginning of things, and in the absence of facts they have developed folk myths to account for matters which they did not understand.

Out of these attempts to explain origins came many of the ancient religions. The most familiar of these is the Greek mythology, which has been preserved because the world has access to more written records of ancient Greece than to those of any other race. The Greeks imagined an elaborate system of gods and demigods to whom they attributed not only the origins of everyday phenomena but all of the good and ill that happened to human beings. In this they were like all other primitive peoples, in ascribing human attributes to their deities.

I think a good deal of that idea of God as nothing but a superior and all-powerful man persists in the subconscious minds of a great many people still.

SPIRIT

My mother, who was brought up a devout Presbyterian, taught me the "shorter catechism" when I was a child. I still think that classic document contains the most perfect definition of God: "God is a spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth." I think if anyone clings to that conception of God, as a spirit moving in the hearts of men and guiding their lives, he is not going to concern himself much as to precisely how the God of the Bible did the things which are attributed to Him.

"In the beginning, God created the heaven